







Ontology-Driven Legal Support-System in the Air Transport Passenger Domain

International Workshop on Semantic Web for the Law within



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10 December 2014



The Air Transport Passenger domain

- ~ 800M passengers transported in the EU per year
- ~100k complaints received in the NEBs per year



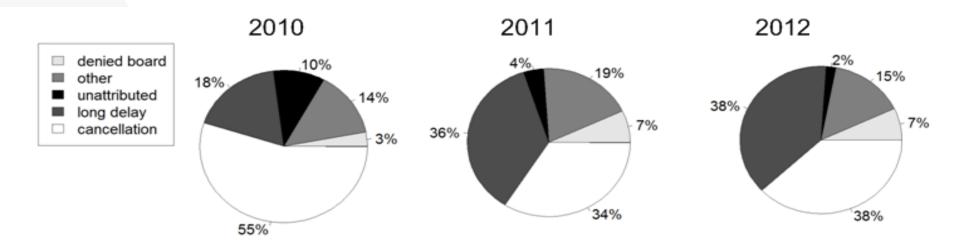


Types of complaints

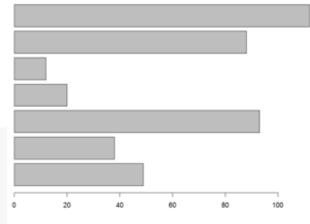
- Cancelled flights
- Delayed flights
- Denied boarding
- Baggage (delayed, damaged, lost...)
- Service incidents



Grounds for lodging complaints







- a) Difficulties arising during booking
- b) Lack of assistance/inadequate assistance (on board)
- c) Lack of assistance/inadequate assistance (at the airport)
- d) Denied boarding
- e) Loss or damage of mobility equipment
- f) Other at the airport
- g) Other with the carrier



Companies providing advice





4 Air**Help**

Flightright alone claims to have supported >400,000 passengers! AirHelp has supported >25,000 passengers



Limitations of companies providing assistance

- —Do not handle baggage claims, nor service complaints
- —Look for their own interest, disregarding some cases
- —Do not provide link to the legal sources
- —Do not go beyond the minimum compensation
- —Do not consider case law
- —Do not consider best practices and recommendations



Ontology-Driven, Legal Support System

—Thesis: Ontologies may assist in the evaluation and decision-making process. Advantages:

- Provide neutral information
- Transparency: the rules can be made public, re-usable by third parties
- Ease of update: ontologies easier to mantain than dedicated source code
- Favour the development of automated applications
- Incidents are more accesible, a comprehensive database of anonymized complains is possible



Ontology Requirements

• **Purpose**: enhance the decision-making process through an ontology-driven support system, in the air transport passenger incidents and rights.

Requirements:

- 1) Does the passenger present a relevant incident?
- 2) Which is the procedure to follow in case of a dispute?
- 3) How can the passenger lodge a complaint?
- 4) Which are the documents the passenger needs to sustain the claim?
- 5) To whom to address the claim?
- 6) When is the passenger eligible for redress?
- 7) Which are the passenger's rights in case of flight cancelation, delay and overbooking?
- 8) Which is the applicable legislation?
- 9) The ontology supports scenarios in the English language.
- 10) The ontology is based on European legal framework.

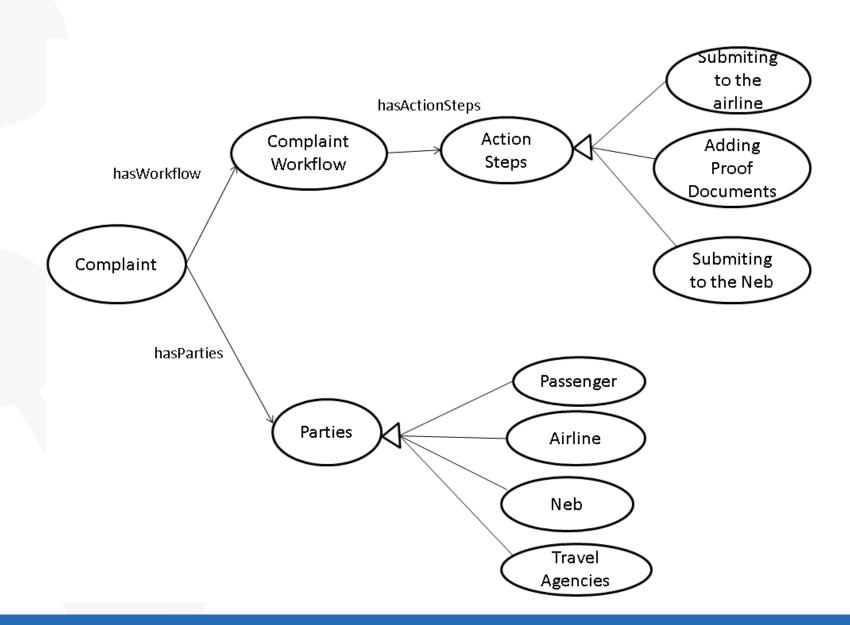


Methodology and sources

- Methontology, iterative process for the ontology design
- Sources:
 - Regulation (EC) No 261/2004, establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long dely of flights.
 - Commission Staff Working Document: "Complaint handling and enforcement by Member States of the Air Passenger Rights Regulations"
 - The 2011 ECC-NET Air Passenger Rights Report disclosed by the European Parliament
 - Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC) position on Air Passengers' Rights, Revision of Regulation 261/04
 - Case-law from the European Court of Justice
 - Terms and conditions of 10 air-carriers
 - Analysis of actual passenger complaints

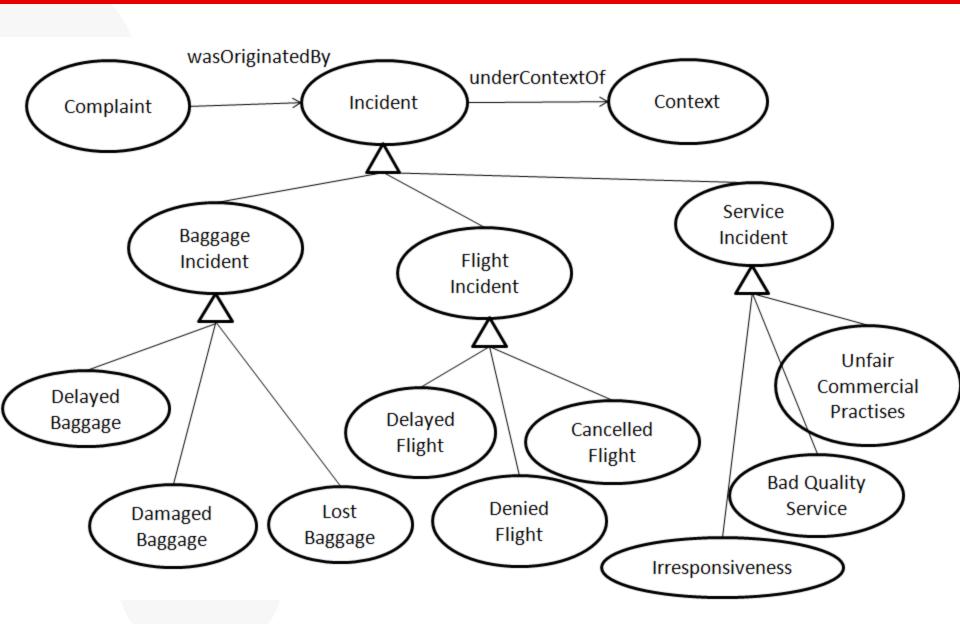


Complaint Workflow Ontology



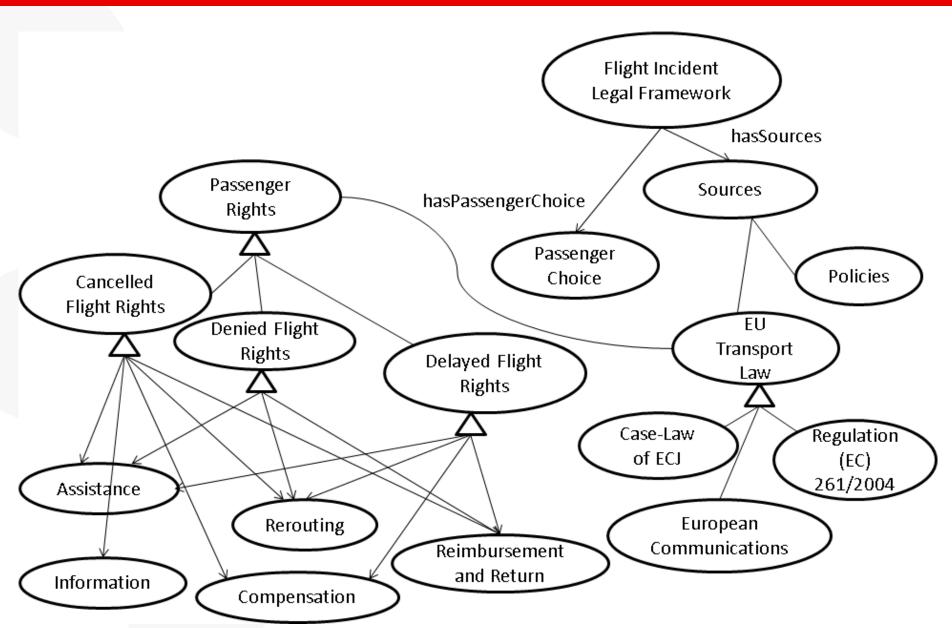


Flight Incident Ontology



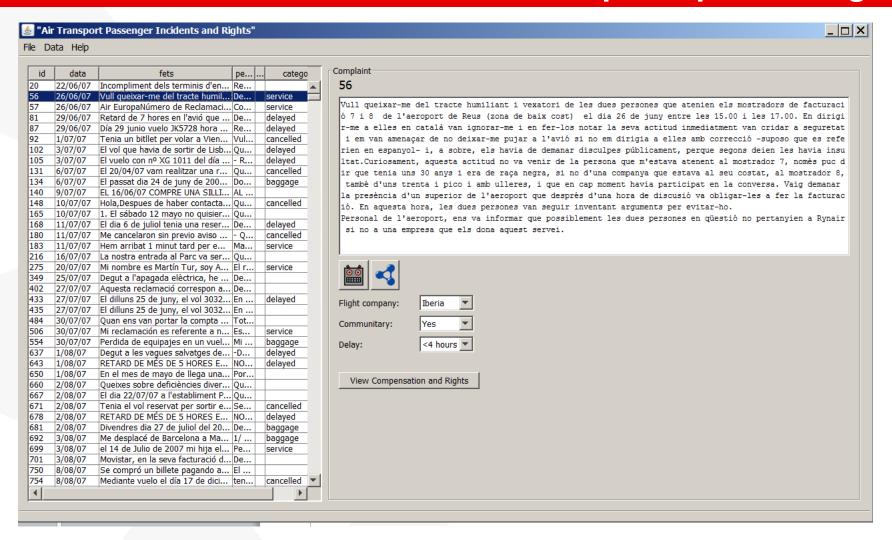


Flight Incident Legal Framework Ontology





Automatic complaint processing tool



Design decisions

- Three ontologies to model three different domains
- PURLs, foreseeing publication of Linked Data
- SWRL rule-based system to trigger information

```
Incident(?i) ∧ hasFlight(?i, ?f) ∧ IntraCommunityFlight(?f) ∧
hasParty(?i, ?p) ∧ CancelledFlight(?f) ∧
reasonForCancellation(?x, "Extraordinary circumstances")
⇒rightTo(?p, :assistance) ∧ rightTo(?p, :information) ∧
rightTo(?p,;refundOrRerouting)
```

Ontology	prefix	IRI
Flight Incident	atpir-fi	http://purl.org/NET/atpir-fi
Complaint Workflow	atpir-cw	http://purl.org/NET/atpir-cw
Flight Incident Legal Framework	atpir-filf	http://purl.org/NET/atpir-filf



Conclusions and future work

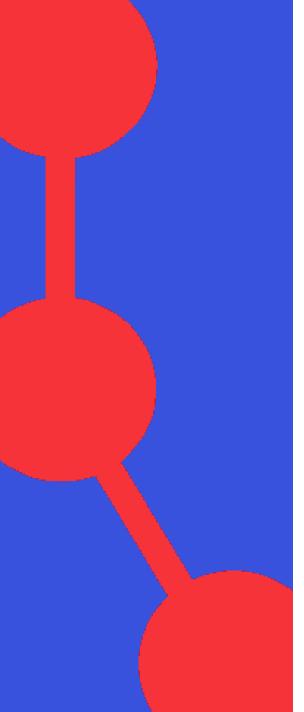
Conclusions

- Classification tasks are fallible by nature
- Automated reasoning is fallible due to incomplete information
- → Hence we propose a **semi-automated** process
- Simple approach may suffice
 - Disregarded ontology patterns to represent temporal information

Future Work

- Detailed link to legal sources
- Ontology population with individuals (air carriers, etc.)
- Ontology validation from different perspectives
- More detailed handling of exceptional circumstances
- Potential usefulness for other parties











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